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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,469	09/23/2003	Jesse Adam Hummer	100204679-1	9050

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

MESFIN, YEMANE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2144

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/08/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,469

Applicant(s)

HUMMER, JESSE ADAM

Examiner

Yemane Mesfin

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-36 are pending.

Drawings

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application, because the informal drawings presented in this instant application (and particularly Figures 2 and 3) are not intelligible. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1-16, 25-29, and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1 and 12 each recite a plug-in per se, which is directed to a computer program alone. A typical plug-in is a software program that extends

special functionality to a larger core software program. Also evidenced by the applicant's disclosure, "a plug-in is typically a software module that tightly integrates with a larger program". (See Specification Page 6, ¶0023). Therefore, claims 1-16 are rejected as been directed to a non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 25 and 33 each recite "a computer readable medium including instructions ..." Applicant's disclosure shows no clear intention or attempt to include a nonstatutory computer readable medium (such as a computer readable transmission media for propagating computer executable instructions). Neither does applicant's disclosure negate the intention to encompass a non statutory subject matter. Thus, given a typical interpretation or definition/scope of a "computer readable medium", these claims are not necessarily limited to only statutory subject matter. Thus, these claims are rejected as being directed to a non-statutory subject matter, which is not actually stored on a computer readable **storage medium** (emphasis added) so to be executable by a computer system.

Note: A computer readable/executable instruction(s) must to be stored in a computer readable **storage medium** (statutory) to be realized by a computer system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cormier et al. (U.S. Patent Number 7,254,814) hereinafter "Cormier".

As per claims 1, 12, 17, 25, 30 and 33, Cormier disclosed a plug-in to a host (Fig. 1, # 160 series), the plug-in providing one or more special capabilities to the host (Column 1, Lines 30-45, plug-in), the plug-in comprising: core means for conducting typical operation of the plug-in by which the one or more special capabilities are carried out (Column 1, Line 60 through Column 2, Line 18, typical operation of a plug-in and Fig. 5); and interface means for interfacing between the core means and a calling entity with respect to operational status of the plug-in (Column 4, Lines 6-20, Column 7, Line 55 through Column 8, Line 11 and Column 11, Lines 13-16).

As per claims 2, 13, 26 and 34: Cormier disclosed, wherein: the interface means is a first interface means; and the plug-in further comprises second interface means for interfacing between the core means and the host with respect to the typical operation(Fig.1, interfacing host plug-in with a core software application and see Column 9, Lines 24-30).

As per claims 3, 14, 19, 27, 32 and 35, Cormier disclosed the host tends one or more storage devices and represents a part of a storage area network (SAN); and the calling entity represents a storage manager of the SAN (Fig. 1, # 115, calling SAN manager in communication with SAN management server over a Storage Area Network.)

As per claims 4, 15 and 28: Cormier disclosed, wherein, relative to a client-server architecture (Fig. 1, client/server architecture), the following relationships apply: the calling entity represents a client relative to the plug-in; and the plug-in represents a server relative to the calling entity (Column 7, Lines 39-66 and Column 8, Lines 20-31).

As per claims 5, 16, 29, and 36: Cormier disclosed, wherein the client-server architecture is the JCore architecture such that the calling entity is a JCore client plug-in and the plug-in is a JCore server plug-in (Column 4, Lines 21-27 and Column 7, Lines 45-54).

As per claims 6, Cormier disclosed butler means for gathering operational status information (Op_Stat_Info) representing the operational status of the plug-in (Column 7, Line 55 through Column 8, Line 11).

As per claims 7 and 20, Cormier disclosed, wherein the butler means is operable for performing the gathering of the Op_Stat_Info in an on-going manner while the plug-in is plugged-into the host (Column 7, Line 55 through Column 8, Line 11).

As per claims 8 and 21, Cormier disclosed, wherein the butler means is further operable to cause one or more pieces of the Op_Stat_Info to be stored upon the one or more pieces being gathered initially, respectively; and update the one or more pieces, respectively, as is appropriate relative to the on-going manner by which the butler means gathers the Op_Stat_Info (Column 14, Lines 14-31).

As per claims 9 and 22, Cormier disclosed, status data object (DO) means for storing the Op_Stat_Info; wherein the butler means is further operable for causing the Op_Stat_Info to be stored via the status DO means, the status DO means is accessible by the calling entity via the interface means (Fig. 1, Column 7, Line 55 through Column 8, Line 11 and Column 14, Lines 14-31 calling entity/Storage Manager remotely interfaced with a Storage

management server on a SAN, the manager storing operational state of plug-ins).

As per claims 10 and 23, Cormier disclosed, wherein the butler means is operable for initiating the gathering the Op_Stat_Info in response to receiving a request from the calling entity (Column 6, Lines 36-42), and for performing the gathering, once initiated, of the Op_Stat_Info (Column 7, Line 55 through Column 8, Line 11 and Column 14, Lines 14-31) in an ad hoc manner (Column 6, Lines 31-44 & Lines 60-65 and Column 6, Lines 44-54).

As per claims 11 and 24, Cormier disclosed, status data object (DO) means for storing the Op_Stat_Info; wherein the butler means is further operable for causing the Op_Stat_Info to be stored via the status DO means, and passing, upon completion of the gathering, the status DO to the calling entity (Fig. 1, Column 7, Line 55 through Column 8, Line 11 and Column 14, Lines 14-31 calling entity/Storage Manager remotely interfaced with a Storage management server on a SAN, the manager storing operational state of plug-ins).

As per claims 18 and 31, Cormier disclosed exchanging typical information between the plug-in and the host, the exchange of the typical information being a part of typical operation of the plug-in by which the one or more special capabilities are carried out (Column 1, Line 34 through Column 2,

Line 18 and Column 3, Lines 1-17, typical operation of a plug-in providing/extending special capability to the core software application).

Conclusion

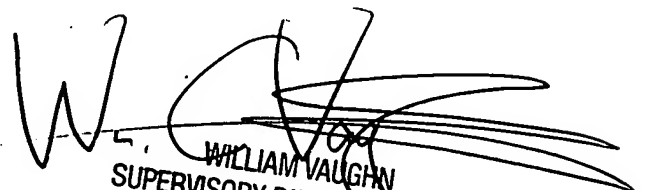
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- a. Lovy et al. (US 7197561 B1) entitled: "Method and apparatus for maintaining the status of objects in computer networks using virtual state machines"
 - b. Davie (US 7197545 B1) entitled: "Techniques for dynamically loading modules for devices discovered in a storage network"
 - c. Gould (US 6782539 B2) entitled: "Data processing for video special effects system"
 - d. Meandzija (US 6404743 B1) entitled: "Enhanced simple network management protocol (SNMP) for network and systems management"
 - e. Shrader et al. (US 6026440 A) entitled: "Web server account manager plug-in for monitoring resources"
 - f. Hayes (US 6006279 A) entitled: "Plug-in module host framework"
 - g. Johnson et al. (US 5987135 A) entitled: "System and method for controlling and monitoring remote distributed processing system"
 - h. Semenzato (US 5903728 A) entitled: "Plug-in control including an independent plug-in process"

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yemane Mesfin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3927. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Yemane Mesfin
Patent Examiner
AU : 2144, TC : 2100


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